



• INFO memo - June 25, 2004

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Tuesday Concerts Wrap Up Next Week

Bluegrass music is getting a second chance at Central Park.

Rains throughout the day took some of the fun out of the Heritage Bluegrass Festival Saturday, June 19. A few nights later The Smith Brothers performed at the next-to-last Tuesday Concert in Central Park and drew the largest crowd of the summer on a perfect night.

This next Tuesday, June 29, will be the final concert of the series, and bluegrass music will be featured.

The free concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the heart of Central Park, with the Showmobile mobile stage set up just south of the tennis courts and Family Aquatic Center. Guests are invited to bring lawn chairs, blankets, etc., and enjoy the music, which is slated to go on through 9:30 or so. If the weather does not cooperate, the show can be moved indoors to the North Intermediate High School auditorium.

Each summer the City's Parks & Recreation Department works with the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council to present the Concerts in the Park series. David Blue, who is the drummer for The Smith Brothers and Special Events Coordinator for the Parks Department, reports that the Starlight Band, which performed at the June 15 concert, drew more than 1,200 fans. The crowd June 22 was even larger.

Extra Mosquito Control Measures Needed

One of the wettest Junes ever in this part of the state may have been bad news for many fishermen and other outdoor enthusiasts, but it's been wonderful for area mosquitoes.

With that in mind, the City has stepped up its control measures for the insects and their young hatchlings. There is more standing water around the city than usual, which means more potential "nurseries" for mosquitoes.

Female mosquitoes bite in their quest for blood as a meal before laying their eggs. They generally lay one to three rafts of eggs in their short lives of just over a month (unless they're swatted down or killed by poisons).

When they bite larger birds like blue jays, crows, cardinals, hawks, owls and eagles, they sometimes carry away with them the West Nile Virus, and can pass it on to human victims and horses.

The more mosquitoes you have in your yard and your neighborhood, the better chance you have of being bitten by one with West Nile. Most often, you won't even know it. But some humans do have serious symptoms and occasionally even die from the virus. Horses which contract the disease have a mortality rate of nearly 50 percent.

If mosquitoes cannot find a suitable "nursery" for their young, they'll go elsewhere. What the females are looking for is standing water, often found in barrels, old tires, cans, water bowls, ceramic pots, etc. Once they've hatched, the adult mosquitoes enjoy high weeds and grass and shaded areas during the hot part of the day, then get out to feed at night and early in the morning.

City officials urge residents to look for those potential breeding places which could be homes for eggs, the larva and then pupa of the mosquitoes, and either empty them or keep the water changed out every couple of days. Meanwhile, City spraying crews will be out at night attacking areas which have traditionally been problems or reported to the City Action Center as problems (258-3587).

Those finding dead birds of the species mentioned should call the Tulsa County Health Department Dead Bird Hotline at 595-4344. They will provide information on what steps to follow.

Summer Volleyball Signups Continue

Next Wednesday, June 30, is the final day for registration in the City's Parks & Recreation Summer Volleyball Leagues, reports league coordinator Melissa Parker of the BA Parks & Recreation Department.

Power leagues start June 28 and the others July 1. Cost per team is \$195 for Coed Intermediate 1 and the Organizational League. Both of those will have referees provided.

Parker said there will be a team limit of 10 per division in the 8-week program, with the exception of the Monday night Power Leagues. First-place prizes will be given to the final tournament.

For more information call Parker at 259-8438.

A Men's Doubles League is also being established for Thursday nights.

Neely Featured at Fire Service Training Symposium

Broken Arrow Acting Fire Chief Greg Neely will be one of the featured speakers July 10 at the First Annual Research Symposium for the International Fire Service Journal on Leadership and Management in Stillwater.

The IFSJLM is the first U.S.-based academic journal focusing on fire service leadership and management issues and topics. The International Fire Service Training Association will hold its annual meeting in Stillwater the week following the symposium. The theme of the symposium will be "Bridging the Research Gap."

Three different panels will convene during the event: one representing academics, one practitioners and one students. Each will focus on “what we know and what we need to know about fire service leadership and management.” The symposium “will both launch and help define the content of the new journal.”

Neely is one of those who will serve on the panels.

Lee Gets Thanks from Alzheimer’s Association

Tracy Lee of the Broken Arrow Police Department recently worked with the Tulsa Area Alzheimer’s Association, and was the recipient of a letter of thanks from that group.

Police Chief Todd Wuestewald commended Lee for “representing our Department so ably and for exemplifying Community leadership.”

He said the letter of appreciation from the association thanked Lee “for your assistance to their organization and your leadership in the effort to educate the community about this devastating disease. It is also my understanding that you will be serving on their Board of Directors in the coming year.”

Hershey Track Meet Includes 18 from BA

Claudia Dyer, Coordinator of the Recreation Division for BA Parks, reports that the State Hershey Track Meet in Norman this weekend will include 18 who qualified through the Broken Arrow meet at South Intermediate High School this spring.

Those qualifying in Norman have the opportunity to go on to the National event.

Dyer also pointed out that the Community Center gyms this weekend will be busy once again with Hardwood Productions basketball tournaments.

The softball fields at the Arrowhead Park complex are hosting the USSSA state tournaments for girls fastpitch ages 10-12-14-16 and 18. Registration for youth football is continuing through the week (Monday through Friday) at the Youth Sports Building at 1005 S. Main. Boys from 1st through 7th grades may play in tackle football leagues, with practices starting Aug. 2.

Flag football registrations began this past week and continued Monday through Friday at the Youth Sports Building. There will be Saturday registrations on July 31 and Aug. 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

City Holiday Set for Monday, July 5

With the 4th of July falling on a Sunday this year, City of Broken Arrow employees will enjoy their Independence Day holiday on the Monday after, July 5. It will be “business as usual” on Friday, July 2.